

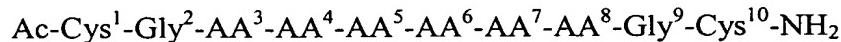
Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-4 (Canceled)

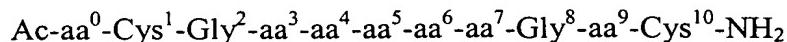
Claim 5 (Withdrawn) A peptide of 10 residues represented by the following amino acid sequence:



wherein Ac represents an acetyl group, AA³ represents a polar amino acid residue, each of AA⁴, AA⁶ and AA⁷ represents a hydrophobic amino acid residue, AA⁵ represents an amino acid residue having carboxyl or hydroxyl group in the side chain thereof, and AA⁸ represents an arbitrary amino acid residue; said peptide having a disulfide linkage between the first and tenth cysteine residues; or a salt thereof.

Claim 6 (Withdrawn) A peptide or a salt thereof according to Claim 5, wherein AA³ is an L-asparagine residue or an L-glutamine residue; AA⁴, AA⁶ and AA⁷ are an L-leucine residue, an L-isoleucine residue, an L-alanine residue or an L-valine residue; and AA⁵ is an L-aspartic acid residue, an L-glutamic acid residue, an L-serine residue or an L-threonine residue.

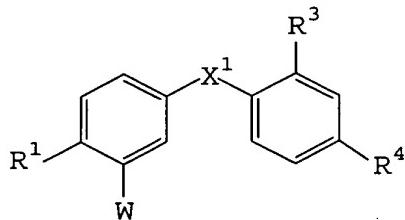
Claim 7 (Withdrawn) A peptide of 10 or 11 residues represented by the following amino acid sequence:



wherein Ac represents an acetyl group, aa⁰ represents an arbitrary amino acid residue or a bonding unit, aa³ represents a polar amino acid residue, each of aa⁴, aa⁵ and aa⁷ represents a hydrophobic amino acid residue, aa⁶ represents an arbitrary amino acid residue, and aa⁹ represents an amino acid residue having carboxyl or hydroxyl group in the side chain thereof; provided that, when aa⁰ is a bonding unit, said peptide has a disulfide linkage between the first and tenth cysteine residues and, when aa⁰ is an arbitrary amino acid residue, said peptide has a disulfide linkage between the second and eleventh cysteine residues; or a salt thereof.

Claim 8 (Withdrawn) A peptide or a salt thereof according to Claim 7, wherein aa³ is an L-asparagine acid residue or an L-glutamine acid residue; aa⁴, aa⁵ and aa⁷ are an L-leucine residue, an L-isoleucine residue, an L-alanine residue or an L-valine residue; and aa⁹ is an L-aspartic acid residue, an L-glutamic acid residue, an L-serine residue or an L-threonine residue.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended) A benzene derivative represented by the following formula:

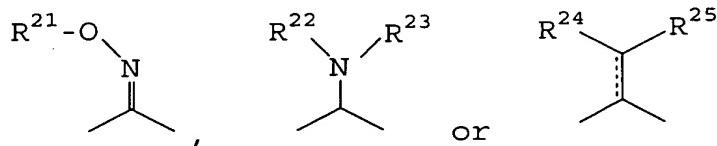


wherein R¹ represents a halogen atom, a cyano group, a nitro group, an unprotected or protected hydroxyl group, an unprotected or protected amino group, a mercapto group or an unsubstituted or substituted alkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, aralkyl, alkoxy, aryloxy, acyl, alkoxy carbonyl, aryloxy carbonyl, carbamoyl, alkylthio, alkylsulfinyl, alkylsulfonyl,

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alkylamino, acylamino, alkylsulfonylamino, arylsulfonylamino or heterocyclic group; R³ represents a halogen atom, a cyano group, a nitro group, an unprotected or protected carboxyl group, an unprotected or protected hydroxyl group, an unprotected or protected amino group, a mercapto group, a carbamoyl group or an unsubstituted or substituted alkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, aralkyl, alkoxy, aryloxy, acyl, alkoxycarbonyl, aryloxycarbonyl, alkylthio, alkylsulfinyl, alkylsulfonyl, alkylamino, acylamino, alkylsulfonylamino, arylsulfonylamino or heterocyclic group; R⁴ represents a hydrogen atom, a cyano group, a nitro group, an unprotected or protected carboxyl group, an unprotected or protected hydroxyl group, an unprotected or protected amino group, a mercapto group or an unsubstituted or substituted alkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, aralkyl, alkoxy, aryloxy, acyl, alkoxycarbonyl, aryloxycarbonyl, carbamoyl, alkylthio, alkylsulfinyl, alkylsulfonyl, alkylamino, acylamino, alkylsulfonylamino, arylsulfonylamino or heterocyclic group;

X¹ represents -C(O)-, -CH(OH)-, -CH₂- or a group of the following formula:



wherein R²¹ represents an unsubstituted or substituted alkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, aralkyl, acyl or heterocycle-lower alkyl group; R²² and R²³ may be the same or different represent a hydrogen atom or an unsubstituted or substituted alkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, aralkyl, acyl, carbamoyl, alkylsulfinyl, alkylsulfonyl, arylsulfonyl or heterocyclic group; and R²⁴ and R²⁵ may be the same or different represent a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a cyano group, a nitro group, an unprotected or protected carboxyl group, an unprotected or protected hydroxyl group, an unprotected or protected amino group, a mercapto group or an unsubstituted or substituted alkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, aralkyl, alkoxy, aryloxy, acyl, alkoxycarbonyl, aryloxycarbonyl, carbamoyl, alkylthio, alkylsulfinyl, alkylsulfonyl, alkylamino, acylamino, alkylsulfonylamino, arylsulfonylamino or heterocyclic group.

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alkylamino, acylamino, alkylsulfonylamino, arylsulfonylamino or heterocyclic group; the double line of which one line is a broken line denotes a single bond or a double bond; and

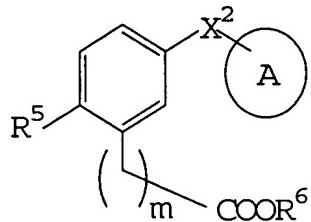
W represents -Z-COR²⁶, -Z-COOR², -O-CH₂COOR² or -O-CH₂CH₂COOR², wherein Z represents -(CH₂)_n- in which n represents 0, 1, 2 or 3[.]with the proviso that when W is -Z-COOR², n ~~can not be 1 is 2 or 3~~, -CH₂CH(CH₃)-, -CH=CH- or -CH₂CH=CH-; R² represents a hydrogen atom or a protecting group for carboxyl group; and R²⁶ represents -NHR²⁷ or -NHSO₂R²⁸ in which R²⁷ and R²⁸ independently represent an unsubstituted or substituted alkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkyl, aryl or aralkyl group;

or a salt thereof.

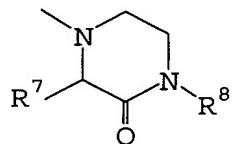
Claim 10 (Currently Amended) A benzene derivative or a salt thereof according to Claim 9, wherein W is -Z'-COOR², -Z'-CONH-SO₂R²⁸, -CONH-CH₂COOR² or -CONH-CH₂CH₂COOR² wherein Z' represents -(CH₂)_{n'}- in which n' is 0, 1 or 2,with the proviso that when W is -Z-COOR², n ~~can not be 1 is 2 or 3~~, or -CH=CH-; R²⁸ represents an unsubstituted or substituted alkyl group; and R² represents a hydrogen atom or a protecting group for carboxyl group; and X¹ is -C(O)-, -CH(OH)- or -CH₂-.

Claim 11 (Withdrawn) A benzene derivative or a salt thereof according to Claim 10, wherein R¹ is an unprotected or protected hydroxyl group or an unsubstituted or substituted alkoxy group; R³ is an unprotected or protected hydroxyl group or an unsubstituted or substituted alkoxy group; and R⁴ is an unprotected or protected hydroxyl group or an unsubstituted or substituted alkoxy group.

Claim 12 (Withdrawn) A benzene derivative represented by the following general formula:



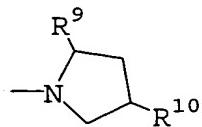
wherein R⁵ represents a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a cyano group, a nitro group, an unprotected or protected carboxyl group, an unprotected or protected hydroxyl group, an unprotected or protected amino group, a mercapto group or an unsubstituted or substituted alkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, aralkyl, alkoxy, aryloxy, acyl, alkoxycarbonyl, aryloxycarbonyl, carbamoyl, alkylthio, alkylsulfinyl, alkylsulfonyl, alkylamino, acylamino, alkylsulfonylamino, arylsulfonylamino or heterocyclic group; R⁶ represents a hydrogen atom or a protecting group for carboxyl group; X² represents -C(O)-; m represents 0, 1 or 2; and ring A represents a group represented by the following formula:



wherein R7 represents a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a cyano group, a nitro group, an unprotected or protected carboxyl group, an unprotected or protected hydroxyl group, an unprotected or protected amino group, a mercapto group or an unsubstituted or substituted alkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, aralkyl, alkoxy, aryloxy, acyl, alkoxycarbonyl, aryloxycarbonyl, carbamoyl, alkylthio, alkylsulfinyl, alkylsulfonyl, alkylamino, acylamino, alkylsulfonylamino, arylsulfonylamino or heterocyclic group; and R8 represents a hydrogen atom, an unprotected or protected amino group or an unsubstituted or substituted alkyl,

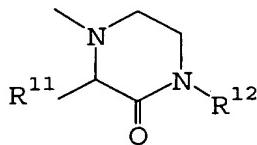
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alkenyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, aralkyl, alkoxy, aryloxy, acyl, alkoxycarbonyl, aryloxycarbonyl, carbamoyl, alkylthio, alkylsulfinyl, alkylsulfonyl, alkylamino, acylamino, alkylsulfonylamino, arylsulfonylamino or heterocyclic group; or a group of the following formula:

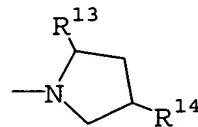


wherein R⁹ and R¹⁰ may be the same or different represent a halogen atom, a cyano group, a nitro group, an unprotected or protected carboxyl group, an unprotected or protected hydroxyl group, an unprotected or protected amino group, a mercapto group or an unsubstituted or substituted alkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, aralkyl, alkoxy, aryloxy, acyl, alkoxycarbonyl, aryloxycarbonyl, carbamoyl, alkylthio, alkylsulfinyl, alkylsulfonyl, alkylamino, acylamino, alkylsulfonylamino, arylsulfonylamino, alkanoyloxy or heterocyclic group; or a salt thereof.

Claim 13 (Withdrawn) A benzene derivative or a salt thereof according to Claim 12, wherein R⁵ is an alkoxy group or an acylamino group; X² is -C(O)-; and ring A is a group of the following formula:

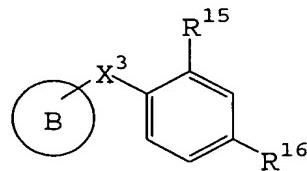


wherein R¹¹ is an alkyl or alkoxycarbonyl group; and R¹² is an alkyl group; or a group of the following formula:

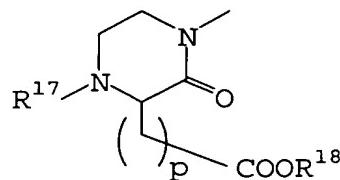


wherein R¹³ is an alkyl or alkoxycarbonyl group; and R¹⁴ is an alkoxy or alkanoyloxy group.

Claim 14 (Withdrawn) A benzene derivative represented by the following general formula:



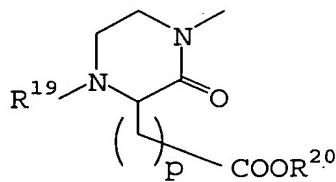
wherein R¹⁵ and R¹⁶ may be the same or different represent a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a cyano group, a nitro group, an unprotected or protected carboxyl group, an unprotected or protected hydroxyl group, an unprotected or protected amino group, a mercapto group or an unsubstituted or substituted alkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, aralkyl, alkoxy, aryloxy, acyl, alkoxycarbonyl, aryloxycarbonyl, carbamoyl, alkylthio, alkylsulfinyl, alkylsulfonyl, alkylamino, acylamino, alkylsulfonylamino, arylsulfonylamino or heterocyclic group; X³ represents -C(O)-; and ring B represents a group of the following formula:



wherein R¹⁷ represents a hydrogen atom or an unsubstituted or substituted alkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, aralkyl, acyl, alkoxycarbonyl, aryloxycarbonyl, carbamoyl, alkylsulfonyl or

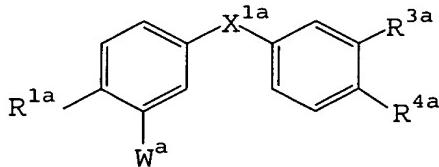
heterocyclic group; R¹⁸ represents a hydrogen atom or a protecting group for carboxyl group; and p represents 0, 1 or 2;
or a salt thereof.

Claim 15 (Withdrawn) A benzene derivative or a salt thereof according to Claim 14,
wherein R¹⁵ and R¹⁶ may be the same or different represent an alkoxy group; and ring B
represents a group of the following formula:



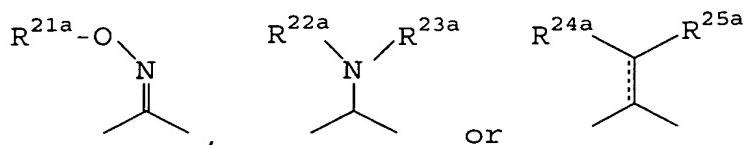
wherein R¹⁹ is an acyl group; R²⁰ is a protecting group for carboxyl group; and p is 0, 1 or 2.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended) A benzene derivative represented by the following
formula:



wherein R^{1a} represents a halogen atom, a cyano group, a nitro group, an unprotected or
protected hydroxyl group, a mercapto group or an unsubstituted or substituted alkyl, alkenyl,
cycloalkyl, aryl, aralkyl, alkoxy, aryloxy, acyl, alkoxy carbonyl, aryloxy carbonyl, carbamoyl,
alkylthio, alkylsulfinyl, alkylsulfonyl, alkylamino, acylamino, alkylsulfonylamino,
arylsulfonylamino or heterocyclic group; R^{3a} and R^{4a} may be the same or different represent a
halogen atom, a cyano group, a nitro group, an unprotected or protected carboxyl group, an

unprotected or protected hydroxyl group, an unprotected or protected amino group, a mercapto group or an unsubstituted or substituted alkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, aralkyl, alkoxy, aryloxy, acyl, alkoxycarbonyl, aryloxycarbonyl, carbamoyl, alkylthio, alkylsulfinyl, alkylsulfonyl, alkylamino, acylamino, alkylsulfonylamino, arylsulfonylamino or heterocyclic group; X^{1a} represents -C(O)-, -CH(OH)-, -CH₂- or a group of the following formula:



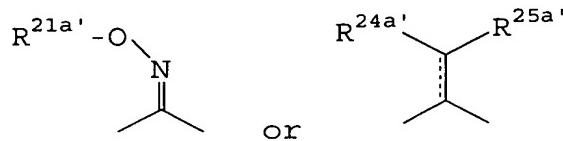
wherein R^{21a} represents an unsubstituted or substituted alkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, aralkyl, acyl or heterocycle-lower alkyl group; R^{22a} and R^{23a} may be the same or different represent a hydrogen atom or an unsubstituted or substituted alkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, aralkyl, acyl, carbamoyl, alkylsulfinyl, alkylsulfonyl, arylsulfonyl or heterocyclic group; R^{24a} and R^{25a} may be the same or different represent a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a cyano group, a nitro group, an unprotected or protected carboxyl group, an unprotected or protected hydroxyl group, an unprotected or protected amino group, a mercapto group or an unsubstituted or substituted alkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, aralkyl, alkoxy, aryloxy, acyl, alkoxycarbonyl, aryloxycarbonyl, carbamoyl, alkylthio, alkylsulfinyl, alkylsulfonyl, alkylamino, acylamino, alkylsulfonylamino, arylsulfonylamino or heterocyclic group; and the double line of which one line is a broken line represents a single bond or a double bond; and W^a represents -Z^a-COR^{26a}, -Z^a-COOR^{2a}, -O-CH₂COOR^{2a} or -O-CH₂CH₂COOR^{2a} wherein Z^a represents -(CH₂)_n^a, n^a is 0, 1, 2 or 3 with the proviso that when W^a is -Z^a-COOR^{2a}, n^a can not be 1 is 2 or 3, -CH₂CH(CH₃)-, -CH=CH- or -CH₂CH=CH-; R^{2a} represents a hydrogen atom or a protecting group for carboxyl group; and R^{26a} represents -NHR^{27a} or -NHSO₂R^{28a}

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in which R^{27a} and R^{28a} independently represent an unsubstituted or substituted alkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkyl, aryl or aralkyl group;

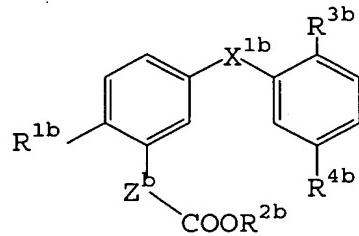
or a salt thereof.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended) A benzene derivative or a salt thereof according to Claim 16, wherein R^{1a} is an unprotected or protected hydroxyl group or an unsubstituted or substituted alkoxy group; R^{3a} and R^{4a} may be the same or different and represent an unprotected or protected hydroxyl group or an unsubstituted or substituted alkoxy group; X^{1a} is -C(O)-, -CH(OH)-, -CH₂- or a group of the following formula:



wherein R^{21a'} represents an unsubstituted or substituted alkyl, aralkyl or heterocycle-lower alkyl group; R^{24a'} and R^{25a'} may be the same or different represent a hydrogen atom, an unprotected or protected carboxyl group or an unsubstituted or substituted alkyl, alkoxy carbonyl, aryloxycarbonyl or carbamoyl group; and W^a represents -Z^{a'}-COR^{26a'}, -Z^{a'}-COOR^{2a'}, -O-CH₂COOR^{2a'}, -O-CH₂CH₂COOR^{2a'}, -CONH-CH₂COOR^{2a'}, or -CONH-CH₂CH₂COOR^{2a'} wherein Z^{a'} represents -(CH₂)_{n^{a'}}- in which n^{a'} is 0, 1, 2 or 3 with the proviso that when W^a is -Z^{a'}-COOR^{2a'}, n^{a'} can not be 1 is 2 or 3, -CH₂CH(CH₃)-, -CH=CH- or -CH₂CH=CH-; R^{2a'} represents a hydrogen atom or a protecting group for carboxyl group; and R^{26a'} represents -NHSO₂R^{28a'} in which R^{28a'} is an unsubstituted or substituted alkyl group.

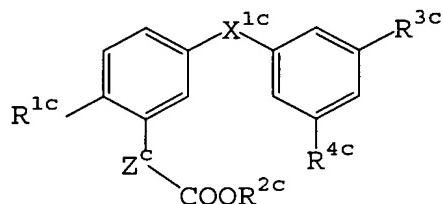
Claim 18 (Currently Amended) A benzene derivative represented by the following formula:



wherein R^{1b} represents a halogen atom, a cyano group, a nitro group, an unprotected or protected hydroxyl group, an unprotected or protected amino group, a mercapto group or an unsubstituted or substituted alkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, aralkyl, alkoxy, aryloxy, acyl, alkoxycarbonyl, aryloxycarbonyl, carbamoyl, alkylthio, alkylsulfinyl, alkylsulfonyl, alkylamino, acylamino, alkylsulfonylamino, arylsulfonylamino or heterocyclic group; R^{2b} represents a hydrogen atom or a protecting group for carboxyl group; R^{3b} and R^{4b} may be the same or different represent a cyano group, a nitro group, an unprotected or protected carboxyl group, an unprotected or protected hydroxyl group, an unprotected or protected amino group, a mercapto group or an unsubstituted or substituted alkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, aralkyl, alkoxy, aryloxy, acyl, alkoxycarbonyl, aryloxycarbonyl, carbamoyl, alkylthio, alkylsulfinyl, alkylsulfonyl, alkylamino, acylamino, alkylsulfonylamino, arylsulfonylamino or heterocyclic group; X^{1b} represents $-C(O)-$, $-CH(OH)-$ or $-CH_2-$; and Z^b represents $-(CH_2)_n^b-$, wherein n^b represents 0 or 2 or 3 or $-CH=CH-$; or a salt thereof.

Claim 19 (Currently Amended): A benzene derivative or a salt thereof according to Claim 18, wherein R^{1b} is an unsubstituted or substituted alkoxy group; R^{3b} and R^{4b} may be the same or different represent an unprotected or protected hydroxyl group or an unsubstituted or substituted alkoxy group; X^{1b} is $-C(O)-$; and Z^b is $-(CH_2)_2-$ or $-(CH_2)_3-$.

Claim 20 (Currently Amended) A benzene derivative represented by the following formula:



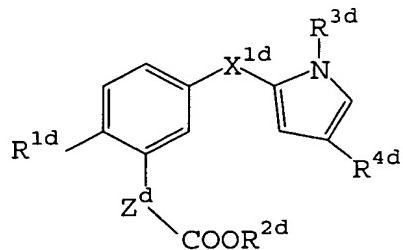
wherein R^{1c} represents a halogen atom, a cyano group, a nitro group, an unprotected or protected hydroxyl group, an unprotected or protected amino group, a mercapto group or an unsubstituted or substituted alkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, aralkyl, alkoxy, aryloxy, acyl, alkoxycarbonyl, aryloxycarbonyl, carbamoyl, alkylthio, alkylsulfinyl, alkylsulfonyl, alkylamino, acylamino, alkylsulfonylamino, arylsulfonylamino or heterocyclic group; R^{2c} represents a hydrogen atom or a protecting group for carboxyl group; R^{3c} and R^{4c} may be the same or different represent a halogen atom, a cyano group, a nitro group, an unprotected or protected carboxyl group, an unprotected or protected hydroxyl group, an unprotected or protected amino group, a mercapto group or an unsubstituted or substituted alkenyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, aralkyl, alkoxy, aryloxy, acyl, alkoxycarbonyl, aryloxycarbonyl, carbamoyl, alkylthio, alkylsulfinyl, alkylsulfonyl, alkylamino, acylamino, alkylsulfonylamino, arylsulfonylamino or heterocyclic group; X^{1c} represents -C(O)-, -CH(OH)- or -CH₂-; and Z^c represents -(CH₂)_n^c -, wherein n^c represents 0 or 2 or 3 or -CH=CH-; or a salt thereof.

Claim 21 (Currently Amended) A benzene derivative or a salt thereof according to Claim 20, wherein R^{1c} is an unsubstituted or substituted alkoxy group; R^{2c} is a hydrogen atom or a protecting group for carboxyl group; R^{3c} and R^{4c} may be the same or different represent

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an unsubstituted or substituted alkoxy group; X^{1c} represents $-C(O)-$; and Z^c represents $-(CH_2)_2-$ or $-(CH_2)_3-$.

Claim 22 (Withdrawn) A benzene derivative represented by the following general formula:



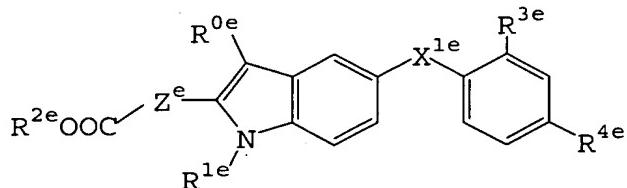
wherein R^{1d} represents a halogen atom, a cyano group, a nitro group, an unprotected or protected hydroxyl group, an unprotected or protected amino group, a mercapto group or an unsubstituted or substituted alkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, aralkyl, alkoxy, aryloxy, acyl, alkoxycarbonyl, aryloxycarbonyl, carbamoyl, alkylthio, alkylsulfinyl, alkylsulfonyl, alkylamino, acylamino, alkylsulfonylamino, arylsulfonylamino or heterocyclic group; R^{2d} represents a hydrogen atom or a protecting group for carboxyl group; R^{3d} represents a hydrogen atom or an unsubstituted or substituted alkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkyl, aryl or aralkyl group; R^{4d} represents a halogen atom, a nitro group, an unsubstituted or substituted alkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, aralkyl, acyl, alkoxycarbonyl, aryloxycarbonyl, alkylsulfonyl, alkylsulfonylamino or arylsulfonylamino group; X^{1d} represents $-C(O)-$, $-CH(OH)-$ or $-CH_2-$; and Z^d represents $-(CH_2)nd-$ (nd represents 0, 1 or 2) or $-CH=CH-$; or a salt thereof.

Claim 23 (Withdrawn) A benzene derivative or a salt thereof according to Claim 22, wherein R^{1d} is an unsubstituted or substituted alkoxy group; R^{3d} is an unsubstituted or

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substituted alkyl group; R^{4d} is an unsubstituted or substituted acyl group; X^{1d} is -C(O)-; and Z^d is -(CH₂)₂-.

Claim 24 (Withdrawn) A benzene derivative represented by the following general formula:



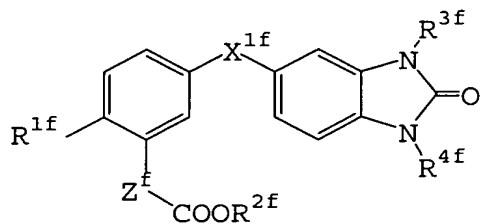
wherein R^{0e} represents a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a nitro group or an unsubstituted or substituted alkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, aralkyl, acyl, alkoxy carbonyl, aryloxycarbonyl, alkylsulfonylamino or arylsulfonylamino group; R^{1e} represents an unsubstituted or substituted alkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, aralkyl, acyl, alkoxy carbonyl, aryloxycarbonyl or alkylsulfonyl group; R^{2e} represents a hydrogen atom or a protecting group for carboxyl group; R^{3e} and R^{4e} may be the same or different represent a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, an unprotected or protected hydroxyl group, an unprotected or protected amino group, a mercapto group or an unsubstituted or substituted alkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, aralkyl, alkoxy, aryloxy, alkylthio, alkylamino, acylamino, alkylsulfonylamino, arylsulfonylamino or heterocyclic group; X^{1e} represents -C(O)-, -CH(OH)- or -CH₂-; and Ze represents -(CH₂)^{ne} (ne represents 0, 1 or 2) or -CH=CH-; or a salt thereof.

Claim 25 (Withdrawn) A benzene derivative or a salt thereof according to Claim 24, wherein R^{0e} is a hydrogen atom or a halogen atom; R^{1e} is an unsubstituted or substituted alkyl

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group; R^{3e} and R^{4e} independently represent an unsubstituted or substituted alkoxy group; X^{1e} is -C(O)-; and Z^e is a bonding unit.

Claim 26 (Withdrawn) A benzene derivative represented by the following general formula:

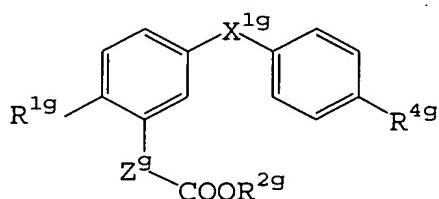


wherein R^{1f} represents a halogen atom, an unprotected or protected hydroxyl group, an unprotected or protected amino group, a mercapto group or an unsubstituted or substituted alkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, aralkyl, alkoxy, aryloxy, alkylthio, alkylamino, acylamino, alkylsulfonylamino, arylsulfonylamino or heterocyclic group; R2f represents a hydrogen atom or a protecting group for carboxyl group; R3f and R4f may be the same or different represent a hydrogen atom or an unsubstituted or substituted alkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkyl, aryl or aralkyl group; X1f represents -C(O)-, -CH(OH)- or -CH₂-; and Zf represents -(CH₂)nf- (nf represents 1 or 2) or -CH=CH-;

or a salt thereof.

Claim 27 (Withdrawn) A benzene derivative or a salt thereof according to Claim 26, wherein R^{1f} is an unsubstituted or substituted alkoxy group; R^{3f} and R^{4f} independently represent an unsubstituted or substituted alkyl group; X^{1f} is -C(O)-; and Z^f is -CH₂-.

Claim 28. (Currently Amended) A benzene derivative represented by the following formula:



wherein R^{1g} and R^{4g} may be the same or different represent an unprotected or protected hydroxyl group or an unsubstituted or substituted alkoxy group; X^{1g} is -C(O)-, -CH(OH)- or -CH₂-; Z^g is -(CH₂)_{n^g}-, wherein n^g represents 2 or 3; and R^{2g} is a hydrogen atom or a protecting group for carboxyl group;
or a salt thereof.

Claim 29 (Previously Presented) A compound or a salt thereof according to Claim 9, wherein said compound is a compound that has an activity of antagonistically inhibiting the combination between AP-1 and a recognition sequence thereof.

Claim 30 (Canceled)

Claim 31 (Withdrawn) A method for inhibiting AP-1 which comprises administering a compound or a salt thereof according to Claim 1.

Claim 32-34 (Canceled)

Claim 35 (Previously Presented) A compound or a salt thereof according to Claim 9, wherein said compound is a compound that has an activity of antagonistically inhibiting the combination between AP-1 and a recognition sequence thereof.

Claim 36 (Canceled).

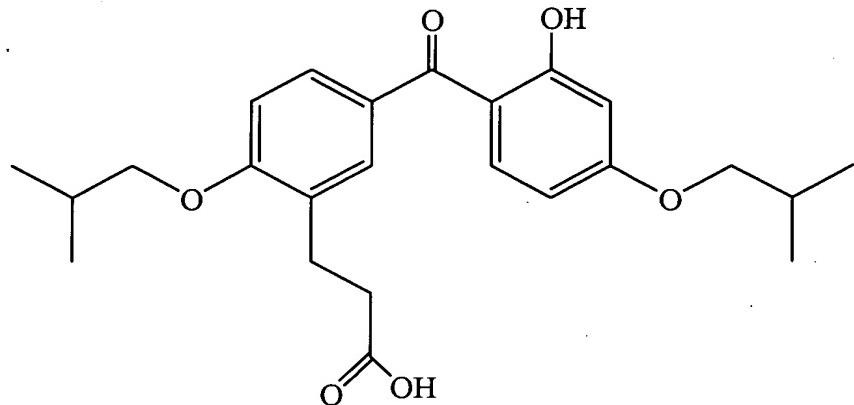
Claim 37 (Previously Presented) A method for inhibiting AP-1 which comprises administering a compound or a salt thereof according to Claim 9.

Claim 38 (Previously Presented) An agent for preventing and treating a disease into which an excessive expression of AP-1 participates, which comprises a compound or a salt thereof according to Claim 9.

Claim 39. (Previously Presented) An agent for preventing and treating an autoimmune disease, which comprises a compound or a salt thereof according to Claim 9.

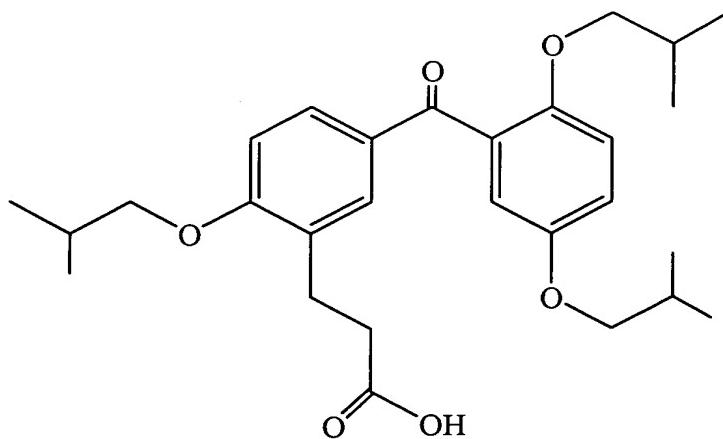
Claim 40. (Previously Presented) An AP-1 inhibitor comprising a compound or a salt thereof according to Claim 9.

Claim 41. (Previously Presented) A benzene derivative according to Claim 9, having the following formula:

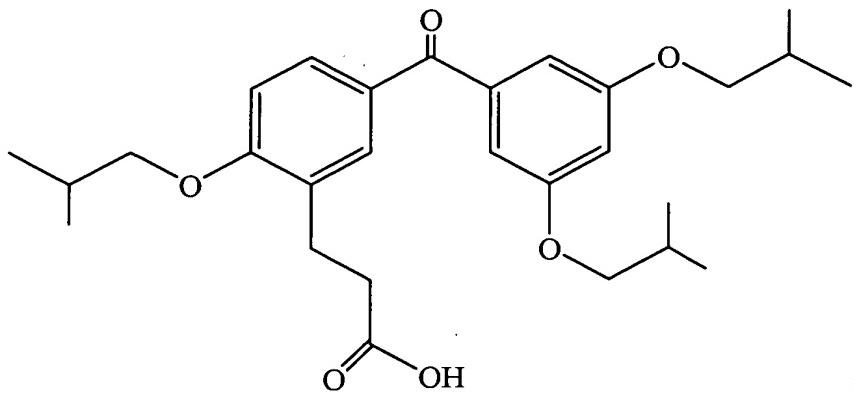


Claims 42-44 (Canceled)

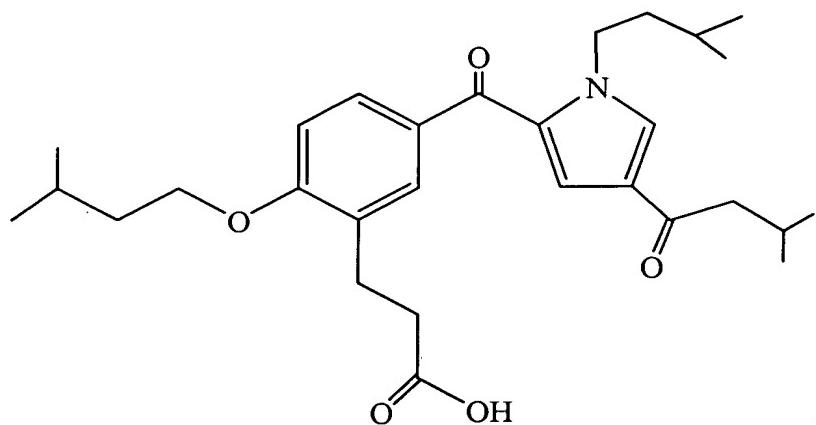
Claim 45. (Previously Presented) A benzene derivative according to Claim 18,
having the formula:



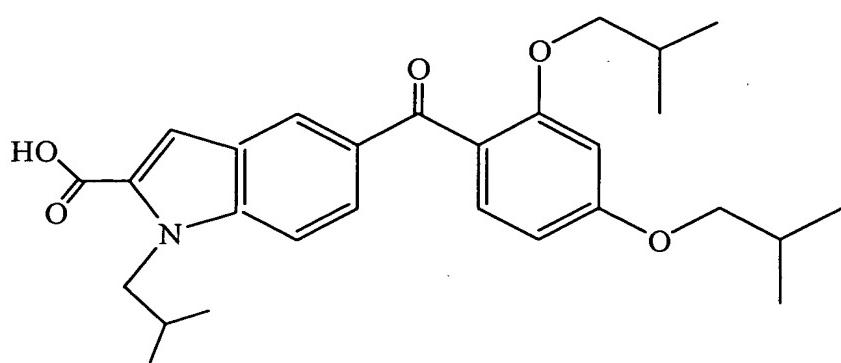
Claim 46 (Previously Presented) The benzene derivative according to Claim 20,
having the formula:



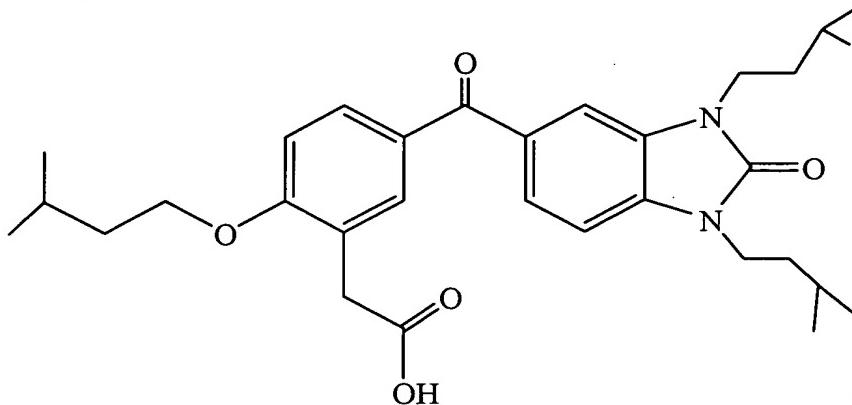
Claim 47 (Withdrawn) The benzene derivative according to Claim 22, having the formula:



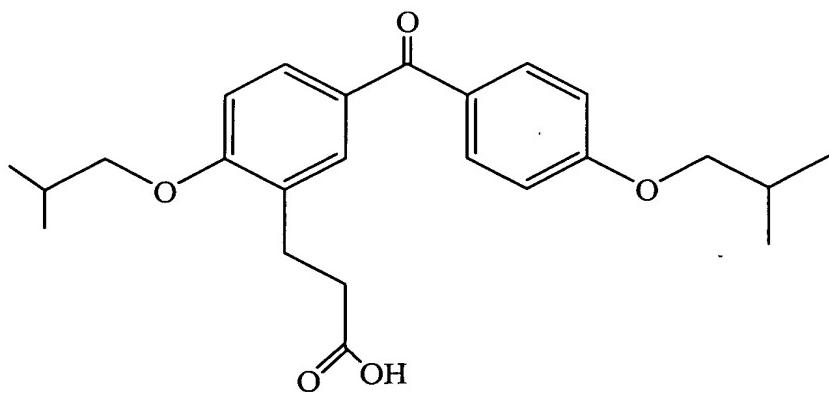
Claim 48. (Withdrawn) The benzene derivative according to Claim 24, having the formula:



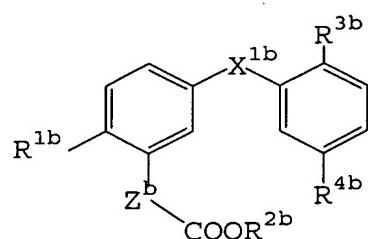
Claim 49. (Withdrawn) The benzene derivative according to Claim 26, having the formula:



Claim 50. (Previously Presented) The benzene derivative according to Claim 28, having the formula:

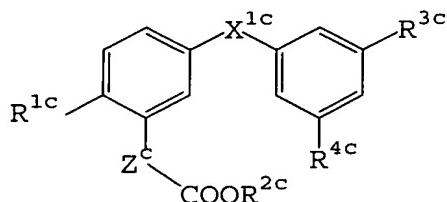


Claim 51. (Currently Amended) A benzene derivative represented by the following formula:



wherein R^{1b} represents a halogen atom, a cyano group, a nitro group, a protected hydroxyl group, an unprotected or protected amino group, a mercapto group or an unsubstituted or substituted alkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, aralkyl, alkoxy, aryloxy, acyl, alkoxycarbonyl, aryloxycarbonyl, carbamoyl, alkylthio, alkylsulfinyl, alkylsulfonyl, alkylamino, acylamino, alkylsulfonylamino, arylsulfonylamino or heterocyclic group; R^{2b} represents a hydrogen atom or a protecting group for carboxyl group; R^{3b} and R^{4b} may be the same or different represent a cyano group, a nitro group, an unprotected or protected carboxyl group, an unprotected or protected hydroxyl group, an unprotected or protected amino group, a mercapto group or an unsubstituted or substituted alkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, aralkyl, alkoxy, aryloxy, acyl, alkoxycarbonyl, aryloxycarbonyl, carbamoyl, alkylthio, alkylsulfinyl, alkylsulfonyl, alkylamino, acylamino, alkylsulfonylamino, arylsulfonylamino or heterocyclic group; X^{1b} represents -C(O)-, -CH(OH)- or -CH₂-; and Z^b represents -(CH₂)_{n^b}- (n^b represents 0, 1 or 2 or 3) or -CH=CH-; or a salt thereof.

Claim 52. (Currently Amended) A benzene derivative represented by the following formula:



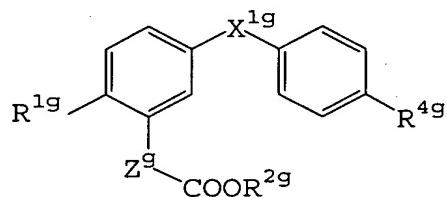
wherein R^{1c} represents a halogen atom, a cyano group, a nitro group, a protected hydroxyl group, an unprotected or protected amino group, a mercapto group or an unsubstituted or substituted alkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, aralkyl, alkoxy, aryloxy, acyl, alkoxycarbonyl,

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aryloxycarbonyl, carbamoyl, alkylthio, alkylsulfinyl, alkylsulfonyl, alkylamino, acylamino, alkylsulfonylamino, arylsulfonylamino or heterocyclic group; R^{2c} represents a hydrogen atom or a protecting group for carboxyl group; R^{3c} and R^{4c} may be the same or different represent a halogen atom, a cyano group, a nitro group, an unprotected or protected carboxyl group, an unprotected or protected hydroxyl group, an unprotected or protected amino group, a mercapto group or an unsubstituted or substituted alkenyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, aralkyl, alkoxy, aryloxy, acyl, alkoxy carbonyl, aryloxycarbonyl, carbamoyl, alkylthio, alkylsulfinyl, alkylsulfonyl, alkylamino, acylamino, alkylsulfonylamino, arylsulfonylamino or heterocyclic group; X^{1c} represents -C(O)-, -CH(OH)- or -CH₂-; and Z^c represents -(CH₂)_{n^c}- (n^c represents 0, 1 or 2 or 3) or -CH=CH-;

or a salt thereof.

Claim 53. (Currently Amended) A benzene derivative represented by the following formula:



wherein R^{1g} is a protected hydroxyl group and R^{4g} an unprotected or protected hydroxyl group or an unsubstituted or substituted alkoxy group; X^{1g} is -C(O)-, -CH(OH)- or -CH₂-; Z^g is -(CH₂)_{n^g}- (n^g represents 1 or 2 or 3); and R^{2g} is a hydrogen atom or a protecting group for carboxyl group;

or a salt thereof.